

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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S E C R E T STATE 132839

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILL, TH

SUBJECT: U. S. INDIAN OCEAN PATROLS FROM U TAPAO

REFS: (A) BANGKOK 9965 (B) STATE 126817 (C) BANGKOK 9608

(D) STATE 115997

1. WE NOTE IN REF A THAT DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FM JUNE 17, CHARUNPHAN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT PRESS REPORTS REGARDING U. S. RECONNAISSANCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN FROM THAI BASES AND THAT THE AMBASSADOR FELT THAT HE HAD INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO APPRISE THE FM OF THE SCOPE OF OUR ACTIVITIES IN THAT AREA. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PER OUR REQUEST (REF B) THE MISSION HAS BEEN SUPPLIED THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS WITH SUBSTANTIAL INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTSNG THAT PROVIDED IN REF D. THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INCLUDES: (A) DATA ON REPRESENTATIVE PATROL AREAS; (B) POST-MISSION REPORTS; (C) DATA ON ACOUSTIC PROPAGATION CONDITIONS; (D) METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC

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DATA; (E) TABULATION OF THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS BY MONTH

AND YEAR, AND (F) MATERIAL ON SOUTH CHINA SEA PATROLS. MOREOVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE THE THAI WITH A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPED BY P-3'S OPERATING OUT OF U TAPAO SHOULD THE RTG REQUEST SUCH INFORMATION HAS BEEN GIVEN.

2. WE WOULD THINK THAT, WITH THE INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE, THE MISSION WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PROCEED WITH BRIEFING THE RTG ON INDIAN OCEAN PATROLS FROM U TAPAO. IF IT SHOULD DEVELOP DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THAI THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR FURTHER SPECIFIC INFORMATION, WE WILL TRY TO PROVIDE IT.

3. WE HOPE THAT, AS OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH SENIOR RTG OFFICIALS ARISE IN THE FUTURE, THE MISSION WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM, USING IN PARTICULAR THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REF D. KISSINGER

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